

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 COA-02

EURE-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 NIC-01 EB-11 CG-00

DOTE-00 DLOS-06 COME-00 INT-08 SAJ-01 DRC-01 SS-20

JUSE-00 /112 W

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O R 271305Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8114

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 1180

ROME FOR US DELEGATION TO ICNAF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, RO, US

SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF ROMANIAN FISHING VESSEL

REF: STATE 060113

1. DCM CALLED ON DIRECTOR OF JURIDICAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTORATE SAULESCU AND MFA EXPERT MIRCEA TUDOR ON MARCH 27 RE SEIZURE OF ROMANIAN FISHING VESSEL INAU.

2. SAULESCU SAID ENTRY INTO US FISHING ZONE WAS UNINTENTIONAL RESULT OF FORCE MAJEURE AND WITHOUT INTENTION TO FISH IN US FISHING ZONE. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CASE WOULD BE RESOLVED QUICKLY AND QUIETLY AND INDICATED DESIRE NOT TO HIRE US ATTORNEY BECAUSE OF UNNECESSARY COSTS INVOLVED.

3. ACCORDING TO SAULESCU, VESSEL WAS BUILT ONLY RECENTLY IN POLAND AND WAS ON ITS MAIDEN VOYAGE WHEN TECHNICAL
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DIFFICULTIES DEVELOPED AFFECTING HYDRAULIC MECHANISM

CONTROLLING TRAWLING GEAR. THERE WAS ALSO STRONG WIND WHICH CAUSED ADDITIONAL NAVIGATIONAL PROBLEMS WHEN TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH MALFUNCTION REQUIRING SHIP TO MOVE IN DIRECTION IT DID. THERE WAS NO EFFORT BY SAULESCU TO DENY KNOWLEDGE OF SHIP'S LOCATION OR TO ATTRIBUTE ENTRY TO NAVIGATION ERROR. SAULESCU SAID VESSEL WAS NOT ENGAGED IN FISHING AND THAT NO FISH HAD BEEN TAKEN ABOARD. HIS ASSISTANT, TUDOR, ALSO CITED ARTICLE 14 OF 1958 GENEVA FISHING CONVENTION AS GOVERNING SITUATION SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED BY SAULESCU IN WHICH NO GUILT ATTACHED WHEN FORCE MAJEURE APPLIED AND NO FISHING HAD TAKEN PLACE. TUDOR ALSO REFERRED TO COMMON US-ROMANIAN VIEW ON MANY FISHERIES AND LAW OF SEA QUESTIONS SUCH AS OPPOSITION TO EXTENDED TERRITORIAL SEAS. SAULESCU ALSO PLEADED IMPORTANCE OF NOT PROCEEDING ON FIRST SUCH INCIDENT, PARTICULARLY WHEN ACTION WAS DUE TO INEXPERIENCE WITH NEW SHIP AND TECHNICAL MALFUNCTIONS. HE HOPED THAT CASE COULD BE DROPPED AFTER INITIAL EXAMINATION BY US ATTORNEY AND THAT PRESS TREATMENT WOULD REMAIN MINIMAL SO AS NOT TO DISTURB OUR GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS UNNECESSARILY.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WHICH DEPT CAN OBTAIN THAT WOULD SUBSTANTIATE OR PUT IN QUESTION ROMANIAN VERSION OF INCIDENT.
BARNES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHING BOATS, FISHING LIMITS, FISHING DISPUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Film Number: D740066-0024
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
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30 JUN 2005

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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